patients admitted in the hospitals earlier or attending OPD for a greater part of the year 1985, there were elevated levels of urinary thiocymate excration. However, analysis of the data at periodic intervals indicated a general declining trend both after Sodium Thiosulphate and with the lapse of time. In addition, the analysis conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research revealed that the thiocynate level in the tap waters and lake water of Bhopal is well within the safe limits.

Use of Hindi in Air India

2365. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters written in Hindi by Air India during the years 1984 and 1985 separately; and

(b) the steps Government have taken to promote Hindi in Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) During the year 1984—2047

During the year 1985—1962

(b) Air India is endeavouring to implement the provisions of the Official Languages Act, 1963 (as amended) and also the Official Languages (Use for Official purposes of the Union) Rules, 1976 and various other instructions issued by the Central Government for progressive use of the Official Language. A time-bound programme is prepared every year to introduce Hindi progressively in day-to-day official working. Necessary arrangements for teaching Hindi to non-Hindi knowing employees are made and cash incentives are given to those who pass such examinations. Hindi Workshop Training Programmes are conducted regularly for the benefit of Hindi knowing employees and they are urged to do their official work in Hindi.

Setting up of a joint sector regional airlines

2366. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a joint sector regional airlines; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Quantum of drugs imported from Italy during the last two years

2367. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of drugs imported from Italy during the last two years, yearwise details, both in terms of money and category of drugs;

(b) what are the reasons for increase or decrease in import of drugs from that country during the last two years; and

(c) whether these imported drugs are freely available in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

गंज बासोदा स्टेशन पर शेड का निर्माण

2368. **श्री प्यारे लाल खंडेलवाल :** क्या परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मध्य रेलवे के 'गंज बासोदा' स्टेशन के प्लेटफार्म नं० 2

पर एक शैड का निर्माण करने की स्वीकृति दी गई थी ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त स्टेशन पर अब तक शैड का निर्माण न करने के क्या कारण हैं ?

रेल विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री माधव राव सिन्धिया) : (क) जी नही ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Development of inland water transport

2369. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plans have been drawn up for linking up different river systems in the country for the purposes of inland water transport;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the amount earmarked during the Seventh Plan for the development of water transport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the Seventh Five-Year Plan a total outlay of Rs. 225.73 crores has been earmarked for the development of Inland water transport, of which Rs. 155.00 crores is in the Central Sector and Rs. 70.73 crores is in the Plan of the States and Union Territories.

Electrification of Vijayawada-Guntur and Guntur-Tenali lines

2370. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to electrify the Vijayawada-Guntur and Guntur-Tenali lines; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Vijayawada-Krishna Canal is already electrified. Electrification of the section Krishna Canal-Guntur-Tenali has been included in the Railways' Budget for 1986-87 at an estimated cost of Rs. 7.62 crores.

देश में मोतिया बिंद के मामलों में वृद्धि

2371. **श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव** : क्या **स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मोतियाबिन्द के मामलों में लगातार कमी होने के सरकार के दावे के बावजूद देश में पिछले दो वर्षों में मोतियाबिन्द के प्रकोप में लगातार वृद्धि हुई है और विश्व में इस बीमारी से ग्रस्त व्यक्तियों की सबसे अधिक संख्या भारत में है ;

(ख) क्या इस बीमारी को रोकने के लिए सरकार युद्धस्तर पर प्रयास करने का विचार रखती है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस कार्यक्रम का चरणवार ब्यौरा क्या है और इस संबंध में स्वयसेवी संगठनों की क्या भूमिका होगी ?

परिवार कल्याण विभाग में उप मंत्री (श्री एस० कृष्ण कुमार) : (क) इस बात का कोई प्रमाण नही है जिससे यह पता चलता हो कि देश में मोतियाबिंद के मामलों में निरन्तर वृद्धि हो रही है । वैसे, मोतियाबंद की व्यापकता के बारे में हाल ही में किये गये अध्ययन से यह पता चला है कि देश के कुछ क्षेत्रों में इस रोग का काफी प्रकोप है । भारत सबसे अधिक घनी आबादी वाला देश होने के कारण विश्व के अन्य देशों के मुकाबले यहां इस रोग का अधिक प्रकोप है ।

(ख) और (ग) देश में दृष्टिहीनता की समस्या से निपटने के लिये भारत सरकार ने दृष्टिहीनता को रोकने के लिये एक राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम शुरू किया है जिसका अन्तिम उद्देश्य दृष्टि-